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September 3, 1987

Ms. Kelly S. McCarty
Emergency Response and Control Section
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
345 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30365

RE: Prairie Metals Company
Prairie, Mississippi

Dear Ms. McCarty:

Mr. C. E. (Bubba) Henley, Fourth District Supervisor of Monroe County, Mississippi, has handed me your letter dated August 20, 1987, received by him on August 31, 1987, regarding the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the site formerly occupied by Prairie Metals Company and/or Prairie Metals and Chemical Company, and has requested that I reply thereto.

At the outset, let me assure you that Monroe County has not condoned the action of Prairie Metals Company and/or its parent company, Systems Services and Industrial Corporation of Savannah, Georgia, in leaving the site in the condition as alleged in your letter of August 20. It is obvious that the responsible party is the corporation and parent company that left the site in this condition and should be the party directly responsible for undertaking cleanup activities to make the site conform to EPA standards.

Monroe County, on behalf of the Fourth Supervisor's District, is willing to do its part in seeing the site cleaned up to your standards, but the County is in need of technical assistance as to what would be required to clean up the site and what disposition can be made of the contaminants or hazard materials located thereon.

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The actual operation of the Prairie Industrial Park has been under the jurisdiction of the City of Aberdeen since the Fourth Supervisor's District of Monroe County turned over to the city the complete operation of the park, and the only supervision of the part exercised by the county has been to approve and join in any lease arrangements for industries interested in locating plants therein.

On or about February 28, 1973, the plant site in question was leased to Prairie Metals and Chemical Company, a Mississippi corporation, having its principal office at Prairie, Mississippi. This lease was for a primary term of five years and was terminated around January 1, 1978. Thereafter, a new lease agreement was entered into with Prairie Metals Company, a Georgia corporation, which apparently is a subsidiary of Systems Services and Industrial Corporation of Savannah, Georgia.

Before the new lessee commenced operation there was a problem with the pollution of the site and cleanup operations were required. By letter dated October 2, 1979, from the Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Pollution Control, Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Ralph Byars, City Manager of the City of Aberdeen, was notified that Mr. Paul Myers had completed all cleanup operations at the facility which operations were observed by Bureau staff and were in accordance with Bureau recommendations. A copy of this letter is attached hereto for your information.

It is recognized that the standards of the Bureau of Pollution Control of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Mississippi are not necessarily in accordance with United State EPA standards. However, it does show a good faith effort in attempting to clean up at this facility.

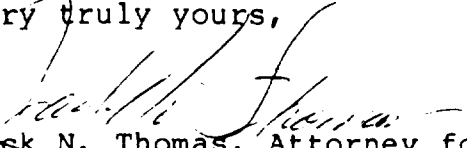
As stated in the beginning Monroe County is willing to do its part in the cleanup operation, and I am sure the City of Aberdeen will also reply to your letter of August 20, 1987, as to their intention in this regard. Both of us, however, I am sure will look to the companies responsible for the contamination and you will be kept abreast of any correspondence the county has with the companies hereinabove named.

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I have on two separate occasions since receiving notice of your letter of August 20, attempted to contact you by phone to discuss this matter, but on both occasions you have been out of the office. On receipt of this letter I would appreciate very much you calling me for a discussion of the technical assistance we will need in an effort to see that the four items listed on Page 2 of your letter are carried out.

Very truly yours,


Jack N. Thomas, Attorney for
Board of Supervisors
Monroe County, Mississippi

JNT/d

Enclosure

cc: Hon. C. E. Henley, Supervisor
Monroe County, Mississippi
RFD 3, Box 231C
Aberdeen, Mississippi 39730